

What Is Claimed Is:

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1. An image transfer system, comprising:

one or more terminal equipments;

one or more facsimile apparatus; and

5 a network for interconnecting said terminal equipments and said facsimile apparatus;

each of said facsimile apparatus including coding means for coding image data included in data inputted to the facsimile apparatus from the outside in accordance with a unique coding method, image data storage means for storing the image data coded by said coding means, and decoding program signaling means for outputting, when the image data stored in said image data storage means is to be outputted to an arbitrary one of said terminal equipments, a decoding program for decoding image data coded in accordance with the coding method in response to an acquisition request from the terminal equipment.

2. An image transfer system as claimed in claim 1, wherein each of said terminal equipments includes:

network control means for controlling connection to and data communication with any of said facsimile apparatus over said network;

inputting means for inputting an operation instruction to initiate a WWW browser;

program execution control means for controlling execution of a program for initiating the WWW browser in response to the operation instruction inputted by said

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inputting means; and

display means for displaying the WWW browser executed by said program execution control means.

3. An image transfer system, comprising:

one or more terminal equipments;

one or more facsimile apparatus; and

a network for interconnecting said terminal equipments and said facsimile apparatus;

each of said facsimile apparatus including coding means for coding image data included in data inputted to the facsimile apparatus over a public network in accordance with a unique coding method, image data storage means for storing the image data coded by said coding means, management means for managing the image data stored in said image data storage means and page information of the image data, network control means for controlling connection to and data communication with any of said terminal equipments over said network, acquisition request reception means for receiving an acquisition request outputted from any of said terminal equipments, acquisition request analysis means for analyzing the acquisition request received by said acquisition request reception means, HTML document data signaling means for signaling, when it is analyzed by said acquisition request analysis means that the acquisition request is an acquisition request for HTML document data, the HTML document data, decoding program signaling means for signaling, when it is analyzed by said acquisition request

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analysis means that the acquisition request is an acquisition request for a decoding program for decoding image data decoded in accordance with the coding method, image data signaling means for signaling, when it is analyzed by said acquisition request analysis means that the acquisition request is an acquisition request for image data coded in accordance with the coding method, and signaling means for transmitting a response to the acquisition request signaled from one of said HTML document data signaling means, said decoding program signaling means and said image data signaling means to the terminal equipment through said network control means.

4. An image transfer system as claimed in claim 3, wherein each of said terminal equipments includes:

network control means for controlling connection to and data communication with any of said facsimile apparatus over said network;

inputting means for inputting an operation instruction to initiate a WWW browser;

program execution control means for controlling execution of a program for initiating the WWW browser in response to the operation instruction inputted by said inputting means; and

display means for displaying the WWW browser executed by said program execution control means.

5. An image transfer system, comprising:
one or more terminal equipments;

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one or more facsimile apparatus;
a WWW server; and

a network for interconnecting said terminal equipments,
said facsimile apparatus and said WWW server;

5 each of said facsimile apparatus including coding means
for coding image data included in data inputted to the facsimile
apparatus from the outside in accordance with a unique coding
method, and image data storage means for storing the image data
coded by said coding means;

10 said WWW server including decoding program storage means
in which a decoding program for decoding image data coded in
accordance with the coding method is stored, and decoding
program signaling means for outputting the decoding program
in response to a request from the terminal equipment.

15 6. An image transfer system as claimed in claim 5,
wherein each of said facsimile apparatus further includes:

management means for managing the image data stored in
said image data storage means and page information of the image
data;

20 network control means for controlling connection to and
data communication with any of said terminal equipments and
said WWW server over said network;

acquisition request reception means for receiving an
acquisition request outputted from any of said terminal
25 equipments;

acquisition request analysis means for analyzing the

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acquisition request received by said acquisition request reception means;

HTML document data signaling means for signaling, when it is analyzed by said acquisition request analysis means that the acquisition request is an acquisition request for HTML document data, the HTML document data;

image data signaling means for signaling, when it is analyzed by said acquisition request analysis means that the acquisition request is an acquisition request for image data coded in accordance with the coding method; and

signaling means for transmitting a response to the acquisition request signaled from one of said HTML document data signaling means and said image data signaling means to the terminal equipment through said network control means.

7. An image transfer system as claimed in claim 5, wherein each of said terminal equipments includes:

network control means for controlling connection to and data communication with any of said facsimile apparatus over said network;

inputting means for inputting an operation instruction to initiate a WWW browser;

program execution control means for controlling execution of a program for initiating the WWW browser in response to the operation instruction inputted by said inputting means; and

display means for displaying the WWW browser executed

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by said program execution control means.

8. An image transfer system as claimed in claim 5,
wherein said WWW server includes:

5 network control means for controlling connection to and
data communication with any of said facsimile apparatus and
said terminal equipments over said network;

acquisition request reception means for receiving an
acquisition request outputted from any of said terminal
equipments;

10 acquisition request analysis means for analyzing the
acquisition request received by said acquisition request
reception means;

15 decoding program signaling means for signaling, when it
is analyzed by said acquisition request analysis means that
the acquisition request is an acquisition request for a
decoding program for decoding image data decoded in accordance
with the coding method; and

20 transmission means for transmitting the decoding program
signaled from said decoding program signaling means as a
response to the acquisition request to the terminal equipment
through said network control means.

25 9. An image transfer method for an image transfer system
wherein one or more terminal equipments and one or more
facsimile apparatus are interconnected by a network,
comprising the steps of:

outputting image data coded in accordance with a unique

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coding method by and stored in any of said facsimile apparatus to an arbitrary one of said terminal equipments; and

5 outputting a decoding program for decoding image data coded in accordance with the coding method to the terminal equipment in response to a request from the terminal equipment.

10. An image transfer method as claimed in claim 9, wherein any of said terminal equipments executes:

an operation instruction inputting step of inputting an operation instruction to initiate a WWW browser;

10 a program initiation step of initiating a program for the WWW browser in response to the operation instruction inputted by the operation instruction inputting step;

a WWW browser display step of displaying the WWW browser initiated by the program initiation step;

15 a URL discrimination step of discriminating whether or not a URL of any of said facsimile apparatus is inputted;

a HTML document data acquisition request notification step of sending, when it is discriminated by the URL discrimination step that a URL is inputted, a notification of

20 an acquisition request for HTML document data to that one of said facsimile apparatus which has the URL through said network;

25 a HTML document data reception step of receiving the HTML document data transmitted from the facsimile apparatus in response to the notification of the acquisition request by the HTML document data acquisition request notification step;

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a HTML document data display step of displaying the HTML document data received by the HTML document data reception step;

5 a program execution description discrimination step of discriminating whether or not a program execution description is present in the HTML document data displayed by the HTML document data display step;

10 a decoding program acquisition request notification step of sending, when it is discriminated by the program execution description discrimination step that the program execution description is present, a notification of an acquisition request for a decoding program to the facsimile apparatus;

15 a decoding program reception step of receiving the decoding program transmitted from the facsimile apparatus in response to the acquisition request notification by the decoding program acquisition request notification step;

a decoding program execution step of executing the decoding program received by the decoding program reception step;

20 an image data acquisition request notification step of sending a notification of an acquisition request for image data to the facsimile apparatus;

25 an image data reception step of receiving the image data transmitted from the facsimile apparatus in response to the acquisition request by the image data acquisition request notification step;

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an image data decoding step of decoding the image data received by the image data reception step based on the decoding program executed by the decoding program execution step; and
an image data display step of displaying the image data decoded by the image data decoding step.

11. An image transfer method as claimed in claim 9, wherein any of said facsimile apparatus executes:

a coding step of coding image data included in data inputted to the facsimile apparatus over a public network in accordance with the unique coding method;

an image data storage step of storing the image data coded by the coding step;

a management step of managing the image data stored by the image data storage step and page information of the image data;

an acquisition request reception step of receiving an acquisition request transmitted from any of said terminal equipments over said network;

an acquisition request analysis step of analyzing the acquisition request received by the acquisition request reception step;

a first discrimination step of discriminating whether or the acquisition request analyzed by the acquisition request analysis step is an acquisition request for HTML document data;

a HTML document data signaling step of signaling, when it is discriminated by the first discrimination step that the

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acquisition request is an acquisition request for HTML document data, the HTML document data to the terminal equipment;

5 a second discrimination step of discriminating, when it is not discriminated by the first discrimination step that the acquisition request is an acquisition request for HTML document data, whether or the acquisition request is an acquisition request for a decoding program;

10 a decoding program signaling step of signaling, when it is discriminated by the second discrimination step that the acquisition request is an acquisition request for a decoding program, the decoding program to the terminal equipment;

15 a third discrimination step of discriminating, when it is not discriminated by the second discrimination step that the acquisition request is an acquisition request for a decoding program, whether or the acquisition request is an acquisition request for image data;

20 an image data signaling step of signaling, when it is discriminated by the third discrimination step that the acquisition request is an acquisition request for image data, the image data to the terminal equipment; and

an error information signaling step of signaling error information when it is not discriminated by the third discrimination step that the acquisition request is an acquisition request for image data.

25 12. An image transfer method as claimed in claim 10, wherein any of said facsimile apparatus executes:

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a coding step of coding image data included in data inputted to the facsimile apparatus over a public network in accordance with the unique coding method;

5 an image data storage step of storing the image data coded by the coding step;

a management step of managing the image data stored by the image data storage step and page information of the image data;

10 an acquisition request reception step of receiving an acquisition request transmitted from any of said terminal equipments over said network;

an acquisition request analysis step of analyzing the acquisition request received by the acquisition request reception step;

15 a first discrimination step of discriminating whether or the acquisition request analyzed by the acquisition request analysis step is an acquisition request for HTML document data;

20 a HTML document data signaling step of signaling, when it is discriminated by the first discrimination step that the acquisition request is an acquisition request for HTML document data, the HTML document data to the terminal equipment;

25 a second discrimination step of discriminating, when it is not discriminated by the first discrimination step that the acquisition request is an acquisition request for HTML document data, whether or the acquisition request is an acquisition request for a decoding program;

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a decoding program signaling step of signaling, when it is discriminated by the second discrimination step that the acquisition request is an acquisition request for a decoding program, the decoding program to the terminal equipment;

5 a third discrimination step of discriminating, when it is not discriminated by the second discrimination step that the acquisition request is an acquisition request for a decoding program, whether or the acquisition request is an acquisition request for image data;

10 an image data signaling step of signaling, when it is discriminated by the third discrimination step that the acquisition request is an acquisition request for image data, the image data to the terminal equipment; and

15 an error information signaling step of signaling error information when it is not discriminated by the third discrimination step that the acquisition request is an acquisition request for image data.

20 13. An image transfer method for an image transfer system wherein one or more terminal equipments, one or more facsimile apparatus and a WWW server are interconnected by a network, comprising the steps of:

outputting image data coded in accordance with a unique coding method by and stored in any of said facsimile apparatus to an arbitrary one of said terminal equipments; and

25 outputting, from said WWW server in which a decoding program for decoding image data coded in accordance with the

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coding method, the decoding program to the terminal equipment in response to a request from the terminal equipment.

14. An image transfer method as claimed in claim 13, wherein any of said facsimile apparatus executes:

5 a coding step of coding image data included in data inputted to the facsimile apparatus over a public network in accordance with the unique coding method;

an image data storage step of storing the image data coded by the coding step;

10 a management step of managing the image data stored by the image data storage step and page information of the image data;

an acquisition request reception step of receiving an acquisition request transmitted from any of said terminal equipments over said network;

15 an acquisition request analysis step of analyzing the acquisition request received by the acquisition request reception step;

20 a first discrimination step of discriminating whether or the acquisition request analyzed by the acquisition request analysis step is an acquisition request for HTML document data;

a HTML document data signaling step of signaling, when it is discriminated by the first discrimination step that the acquisition request is an acquisition request for HTML document data, the HTML document data to the terminal equipment;

25 a second discrimination step of discriminating, when it

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is not discriminated by the first discrimination step that the acquisition request is an acquisition request for HTML document data, whether or the acquisition request is an acquisition request for image data;

5 an image data signaling step of signaling, when it is discriminated by the second discrimination step that the acquisition request is an acquisition request for image data, the image data to the terminal equipment; and

10 an error information signaling step of signaling error information when it is not discriminated by the second discrimination step that the acquisition request is an acquisition request for image data.

15 15. An image transfer method as claimed in claim 13, wherein any of said terminal equipments executes:

an operation instruction inputting step of inputting an operation instruction to initiate a WWW browser;

a program initiation step of initiating a program for the WWW browser in response to the operation instruction inputted by the operation instruction inputting step;

20 a WWW browser display step of displaying the WWW browser initiated by the program initiation step;

a URL discrimination step of discriminating whether or not a URL of any of said facsimile apparatus is inputted;

25 a HTML document data acquisition request notification step of sending, when it is discriminated by the URL discrimination step that a URL is inputted, a notification of

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an acquisition request for HTML document data to that one of
said facsimile apparatus which has the URL through said
network;

5 a HTML document data reception step of receiving the HTML
document data transmitted from the facsimile apparatus in
response to the notification of the acquisition request by the
HTML document data acquisition request notification step;

10 a HTML document data display step of displaying the HTML
document data received by the HTML document data reception
step;

15 a program execution description discrimination step of
discriminating whether or not a program execution description
is present in the HTML document data displayed by the HTML
document data display step;

20 a decoding program acquisition request notification step
of sending, when it is discriminated by the program execution
description discrimination step that the program execution
description is present, a notification of an acquisition
request for a decoding program to said WWW server;

25 a decoding program reception step of receiving the
decoding program transmitted from said WWW server in response
to the acquisition request notification by the decoding program
acquisition request notification step;

a decoding program execution step of executing the
decoding program received by the decoding program reception
step;

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an image data acquisition request notification step of sending a notification of an acquisition request for image data to the facsimile apparatus;

5 an image data reception step of receiving the image data transmitted from the facsimile apparatus in response to the acquisition request by the image data acquisition request notification step;

10 an image data decoding step of decoding the image data received by the image data reception step based on the decoding program executed by the decoding program execution step; and

an image data display step of displaying the image data decoded by the image data decoding step.

16. An image transfer method as claimed in claim 14, wherein any of said terminal equipments executes:

15 an operation instruction inputting step of inputting an operation instruction to initiate a WWW browser;

a program initiation step of initiating a program for the WWW browser in response to the operation instruction inputted by the operation instruction inputting step;

20 a WWW browser display step of displaying the WWW browser initiated by the program initiation step;

a URL discrimination step of discriminating whether or not a URL of any of said facsimile apparatus is inputted;

25 a HTML document data acquisition request notification step of sending, when it is discriminated by the URL discrimination step that a URL is inputted, a notification of

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an acquisition request for HTML document data to that one of said facsimile apparatus which has the URL through said network;

5 a HTML document data reception step of receiving the HTML document data transmitted from the facsimile apparatus in response to the notification of the acquisition request by the HTML document data acquisition request notification step;

10 a HTML document data display step of displaying the HTML document data received by the HTML document data reception step;

a program execution description discrimination step of discriminating whether or not a program execution description is present in the HTML document data displayed by the HTML document data display step;

15 a decoding program acquisition request notification step of sending, when it is discriminated by the program execution description discrimination step that the program execution description is present, a notification of an acquisition request for a decoding program to said WWW server;

20 a decoding program reception step of receiving the decoding program transmitted from said WWW server in response to the acquisition request notification by the decoding program acquisition request notification step;

25 a decoding program execution step of executing the decoding program received by the decoding program reception step;

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an image data acquisition request notification step of sending a notification of an acquisition request for image data to the facsimile apparatus;

5 an image data reception step of receiving the image data transmitted from the facsimile apparatus in response to the acquisition request by the image data acquisition request notification step;

10 an image data decoding step of decoding the image data received by the image data reception step based on the decoding program executed by the decoding program execution step; and

an image data display step of displaying the image data decoded by the image data decoding step.

17. An image transfer method as claimed in claim 13, wherein said WWW server executes:

15 an acquisition request reception step of receiving an acquisition request outputted from any of said terminal equipments over said network;

20 an acquisition request analysis step of analyzing the acquisition request received by the acquisition request reception step;

25 a decoding program signaling step of signaling, when it is analyzed by the acquisition request analysis step that the acquisition request is an acquisition request for a decoding program for image data decoded in accordance with the coding method, the decoding program to the terminal equipment; and a transmission step of transmitting the decoding program

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signaled by the decoding program signaling step as a response to the acquisition request to the terminal equipment.

18. An image transfer method as claimed in claim 14, wherein said WWW server executes:

5 an acquisition request reception step of receiving an acquisition request outputted from any of said terminal equipments over said network;

an acquisition request analysis step of analyzing the acquisition request received by the acquisition request reception step;

10 a decoding program signaling step of signaling, when it is analyzed by the acquisition request analysis step that the acquisition request is an acquisition request for a decoding program for image data decoded in accordance with the coding method, the decoding program to the terminal equipment; and

15 a transmission step of transmitting the decoding program signaled by the decoding program signaling step as a response to the acquisition request to the terminal equipment.

20 19. An image transfer method as claimed in claim 15, wherein said WWW server executes:

an acquisition request reception step of receiving an acquisition request outputted from any of said terminal equipments over said network;

25 an acquisition request analysis step of analyzing the acquisition request received by the acquisition request reception step;

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a decoding program signaling step of signaling, when it is analyzed by the acquisition request analysis step that the acquisition request is an acquisition request for a decoding program for image data decoded in accordance with the coding method, the decoding program to the terminal equipment; and
5 a transmission step of transmitting the decoding program signaled by the decoding program signaling step as a response to the acquisition request to the terminal equipment.

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